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INFORMATION REPORT

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[REDACTED]

1. At a meeting of the Antifa Bloc Committee in Berlin on 1 March 1948, Otto Muschke is reported to have expressed the strong opposition of the CDU to renewed sequestrations. Muschke announced that the CDU would withdraw from the Antifa Bloc, the Volkskongress, and the state governments if sequestration did not end. CDU circles hailed this stand as even more courageous than the line adopted by Jacob Kaiser.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: Sequestrations have not ceased and Muschke has taken no steps to carry out his threats; on the contrary he played a leading role at the Volkskongress, 17-18 March.)

25X1X 2. [REDACTED] Muschke and Georg Dertinger had a conference with Colonel Tulpanov on 13 March, in which they insisted on a revision of SVA sequestration policy. Tulpanov told them that he was going to see to it that sabotage of industrial property by capitalist factory owners was stopped once and for all; he said he did not care how many factories would have to be sequestered to accomplish this purpose. Dertinger told source afterwards that he assumed that this means still further sequestrations will follow.

25X1X 3. [REDACTED] Wilhelm Küls tried repeatedly but unsuccessfully during February to gain an audience with the SA to protest against new sequestrations. Küls then asked Wilhelm Pieck to use his influence in this matter. Pieck promised to do so but actually did nothing. Instead, a special committee under orders from Walter Ulbricht travelled around the Russian Zone engineering FDGB demands for sequestration of all remaining private factories. Hermann Kestner used his allegedly good connections to protest to SVA Saxony, likewise in vain.

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